The STATE HORNET

The voice of Sacramento State since 1949.

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A3 One Book author Peter Hecht came to campus to discuss writing "Weed Land."

Sports

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B2 Redshirt freshman Brad Bumgarner and sophomore Paul Geyer help lead the men's soccer team in the 2015 season.



Looking for fun places to go on fall dates this year?

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Students Fight Back

Thursday: Oct. 15, 2015 7:30 P.M.

Students Fight Back : The UNIQUE Program is offering a free violence and self-defense class in the University Union Ballroom.

Sound SPLAT

Monday: Oct. 19 - 23 7:00 P.M.

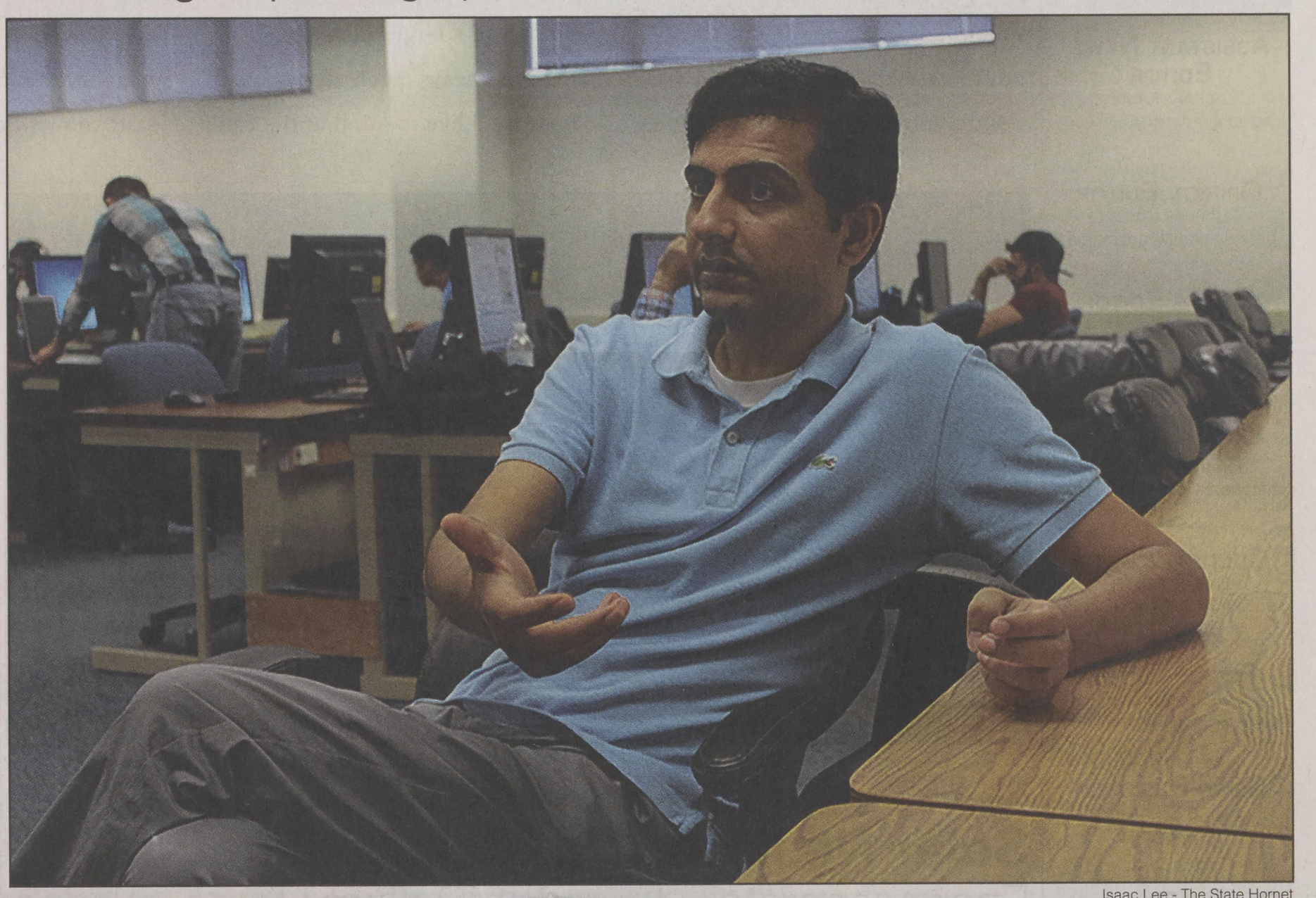
Sound Splat: Starting on Oct. 19, the Witt Gallery in Kadema Hall will be hosting five nights of musical and visual experiences from local artists.

The annual Sac State and UC Davis Causeway Classic Blood Drive is being held October 20-21 in the University Union Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't forget to donate to receive your free T-shirt and MyBloodSource rewards. To volunteer visit sacstateblooddrive@gmail.com.

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Civil engineering utilizes app

Counting all parking spaces on campus is the project's goal



Isaac Lee - The State Hornet

Sacramento State professor Ghazan Khan discusses an app he uses in his course to better collect campus traffic data, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015 in his classroom. The app helps Khan's students in Civil Engineering 148, research traffic trends and anlayze transportation data on campus.

Brian Ratto
@bratto2002

The civil engineering department at Sacramento State has been utilizing a data collection app to monitor transportation and parking on campus.

In 2013, Ghazan Khan, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, applied for a University Enterprises, Inc. campus grant to fund a parking study on campus.

With that grant, Khan was able to purchase a few tablets for the study. He already had a connection to get Turning Movement Count Pro, a traffic data collection app, for free.

"I have a friend that works at a software development company that developed a data collection app," Khan said. "I was able to get an education version of the application to use in the classroom for free."

Students in Civil Engineering 148, the Transportation Systems class, used the applications to collect data in parking lot 4, parking structure 2 and parking structure 3, one day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Khan said the main goal of this lab was to collect and analyze transportation data. He also found another use for the hardware and software in the Transportation Engineering class.

"I was able to take the tablets and the free app, which had more capabilities, and incorporate that into Civil Engineering 148," Khan said. "They [the students] use it every semester to

TRAFFIC, A2



Sacramento State student Rayan Dahduli talks about his experience with TMC Pro.

Chief of staff helps campus

Angel Kidka
@angelykid

Lisa Cardoza is President Robert Nelsen's chief of staff at Sacramento State, and helps Nelsen make his desires for the campus a reality.

Cardoza was excited for the opportunity to work and collaborate with Nelsen and students.

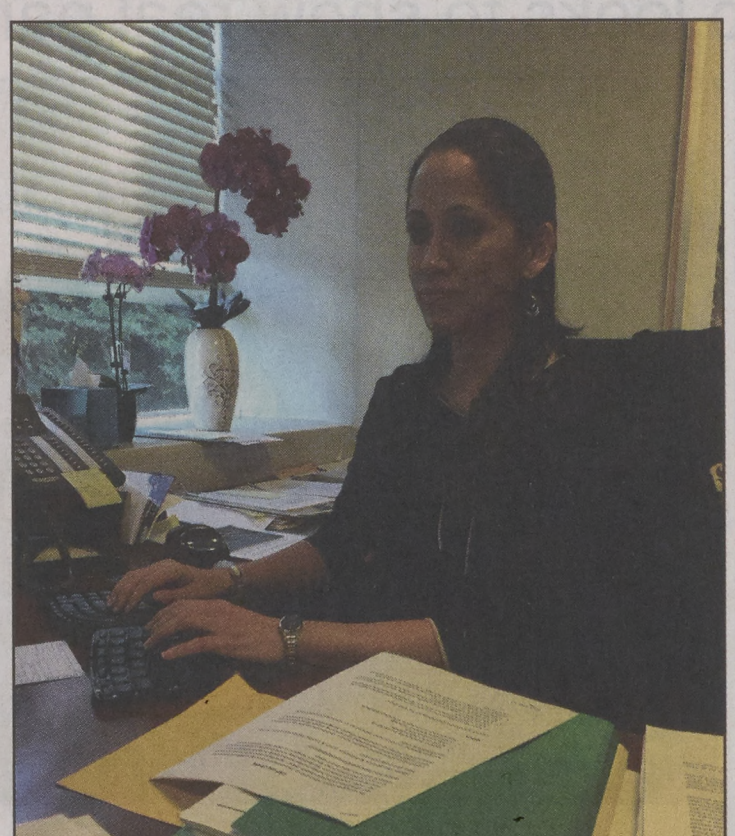
"As the president's right hand, it's important that I am informed as much as I can to help him make decisions for the university. It's a matter of me taking to people, getting all of the information that I can and learning as much as I can," Cardoza said.

In addition to being the source of communication and gathering information, she also plays a large part in envisioning the campus.

"Lisa gets the larger vision for the university and in that, she makes the decisions on what fits that vision and how it will work. I do not make a single decision without talking to Lisa and weighing her input," Nelsen said.

Cardoza attended Stanford University for her undergraduate and graduate years of college, where she majored in economics for undergrad, and received her master's in education

CARDOZA, A4



Angel Kidka - The State Hornet

Lisa Cardoza, chief of staff at Sacramento State, in her office on Friday, Oct. 2, 2015.

Sac State safety plans are in place

Angel Kidka
@angelykid

The recent shooting at a community college in Oregon has raised some concerns with students regarding campus safety and the security procedures at Sacramento State.

Nichole Sidney, a fourth-year government major, expressed her concerns of campus safety procedures.

"I don't believe that students at Sac State are properly prepared for a possible emergency situation, for many reasons, but mainly because we are not formally trained if those situations even occur," Sidney said.

Sac State's Chief of Police Mark Iwasa said the current safety procedures and training his staff receives is designed to ensure the safety and peace of the campus community.

"It is very difficult for the campus to train everybody on five or six different types of emergencies, and it's very difficult for students to want to attend five or six different training classes, so instead we have dialed it down to two responses," Iwasa said.

The two safety training procedures they focused on are the evacuation procedures and the shelter procedure.

The responses rely heavily on the Emergency Notification System, which is used to inform students on which procedure to take during an emergency.

"One of the major components is the emergency alert notification system," Iwasa said. "Those notifications are very crucial to the campus's ability to respond during emergencies."

Due to the importance of the ENS, it is drilled annually to ensure the response time is quick

SAFETY, A2

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EDITORIAL Safety awareness is important

Shootings on college campuses are a terrifying but real specter that can terrorize a community.

From Virginia Tech to the recent Umpqua Community College shooting, Sacramento State as a campus must acknowledge that this type of event can happen anywhere.

The possibility of a school shooting is one every campus must acknowledge.

While some aspects of the campus plan to protect students- like the Emergency Notification System- are known to many students, we would like to know what else is in place to alert and protect in the case of an emergency. The ENS is not enough.

If there was an active-shooter event on campus, it is not clear what students should do. The ENS is only one step in a larger plan, and it does not always reach all students.

We would like to ask that the campus make the safety plan for students and faculty more clear and accessible. We would like to know how the wishes of law enforcement will be communicated quickly to students and faculty in the event of an emergency.

We hope that such plans and systems never need to be put into effect, but in case there is ever an active-shooter episode on campus, it is important that students and staff know what the right action is.



Photo courtesy of Blake Boyles

U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz, stops by to check out Sacramento State's Solar Nest project that is currently taking place in Irvine, Calif. Sac State is just one of 14 schools that are participating in this decathalon event.

Solar Nest participates in decathalon

Energy secretary tours the Reflect Home in Irvine

Milagros Gomez
@_milisjournal

The Sacramento State Reflect Home was one of 14 to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon displaying the collaborative efforts of Team Solar Nest on Oct. 8.

Sac State sent the student-built Reflect Home to the Orange County Great Park in Irvine for the Solar Decathlon 2015 on the weekend of Oct. 9. The Sac State team was one of the teams from across the nation to participate in a competition made up of 10 contests proving the efficiency of their homes.

Team Solar Nest, Sac State's team, was not only one of the few teams to participate in the Solar Decathlon 2015, but they were also selected to be one of the teams that the U.S. Secretary of Energy toured.

"The Sac State Reflect Home was one of only three homes that were hand-picked for the United States Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz to tour," said Gareth Figgess, assistant professor of construction management.

Figgess also said one of the motivations of this project is a chance for students to be exposed to a project first hand and where they can see their efforts appreciated.

"One of the inspirations behind the Sac State Reflect Home was finding

SOLAR, A3

Traffic: app looks to show real parking data

CONTINUED, A1

collect traffic data at State University Drive and College Town Drive."

In the lab, students work in groups of four using one tablet to collect pedestrian, heavy vehicle, bicycles and regular vehicle traffic data over a couple of hours. Students then analyze the data using the online tools or excel, according to Khan.

"We had to do a survey that asked people how is parking [on campus,]" said Rayan Dahduli, a civil engineering major. "You can add sensors to the parking spots, so students can look up what spaces are available in what lots."

Prior to using the app, students had to use Jamar Count Boards.

Khan said the count boards were cumbersome to work with and extremely expensive; they use proprietary software that is slow and more complex for students to use.

"The tablets were only $200 each, the app was free and you can download the data and email it to yourself in a couple of minutes," Khan said.



Isaac Lee - The State Hornet

Sacramento State student Bilal Salah talks about his experience with TMC Pro, an app that makes collecting data easier, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015 in Riverside Hall.

On the University Transportation and Parking Services Facebook page, students, faculty and staff can view traffic hot spot maps that show how full the lots are at the time the maps are posted.

"The [UTAPS] hot spot maps are created by a student assistant manually," Khan said. "I would like to offer an automated capability to the creation of the maps."

Khan does know that computer engineering students have to work on a senior design project and is willing to talk to these students about the possibility of creating an app that shows parking spaces available.

"I feel like even though the app was made for data collection, it would be good to have a similar app to help find parking," said Vian Somo, a civil engineering major.

There is currently no app available for Sac State students, faculty or staff to use to find parking.

"Its not about just the actual use of this [data] in the classroom, the efficiency and the cost savings, but also in a broader sense to inspire students to be able to do this on their own," Khan said.

Safety: ENS is the main procedure

CONTINUED, A1

and reliable.

The system was cut down from eight minutes to four from last year, and Iwasa and his team are continuing to work on decreasing that time.

"Even though the campus keeps increasing, we are hoping to keep reducing the time lag from start to end," Iwasa said. "Because four minutes might not seem like a long time, it can be a significant amount of time in an emergency situation."

Aside from the ENS, officers are readily available every day.

"We have a total of 23 officers here on campus and they are broken down into four person teams," Iwasa said.

The Sac State Police Department have teams of officers scheduled throughout the day to keep an eye on campus.

"There is always a team that's on duty at all times, there are times where there can be two officers and there is time where there can be nine officers on duty," Iwasa said.

In addition to campus police, community service officers are on duty 24 hours a day to ensure ongoing safety and to lower crime rates.

"The CSOs are a huge part of the campus safety, there are about 80 employed by the department and they are assigned to location that has the highest predictable crime rates," Iwasa said. "I think they have been one of the greatest contributors to the prevention of crimes here on the campus."

Associated Students, Inc. President Melissa Bardo said she believes in the safety of the campus.

Bardo also said she is proud of the work the university has put into ensuring our safety, but knows that anything can happen.

"That's not to say that there couldn't be some sort of tragedy to happen because when something starts it takes time to respond, but I think our university has done a good job of preparing us on that front," Bardo said.

Solar: Sac State competes nationally

CONTINUED, A2

a workable solution for reducing the amount of energy a normal person uses without sacrificing the living conditions that person may be used to," Figgess said.

Figgess said while Team Solar Nest competed against some of the best schools in the nation, after 19 to 20-hour workdays, the Sac State Reflect Home became known to be one of the largest and most livable homes in the competition.

Blake Boyles, a communication studies major, was a part of the public relations team dedicated to promoting Team Solar Nest's hard work.

The Sac State Reflect Home, seen in the competition in Irvine, had to be separated into six pieces and shipped in seven trucks. Once in Irvine, it took nine days to put together, Boyles said.

The aspiration behind the making of the Sac State Reflect Home is to accommodate the life of specific individuals.

"The Sac State Reflect Home was created to be an affordable solution to accommodate a single person, a couple or a young family," Boyles said.

The Sac State Reflect Home is an example for preparing for the future, since California will require a proportion of electricity to come from solar energy by the year 2020, according to the California Energy Commission website.

Associated Students, Inc. President Melissa Bardo said the Sac State Reflect Home and the Solar Decathlon was an opportunity for Team Solar Nest to be able to apply their knowledge into a real-world setting.

"You know the saying, 'Everything important can't be learned in a classroom, you have to do it through experience.' And I think that's the perfect example of what it is," Bardo said.

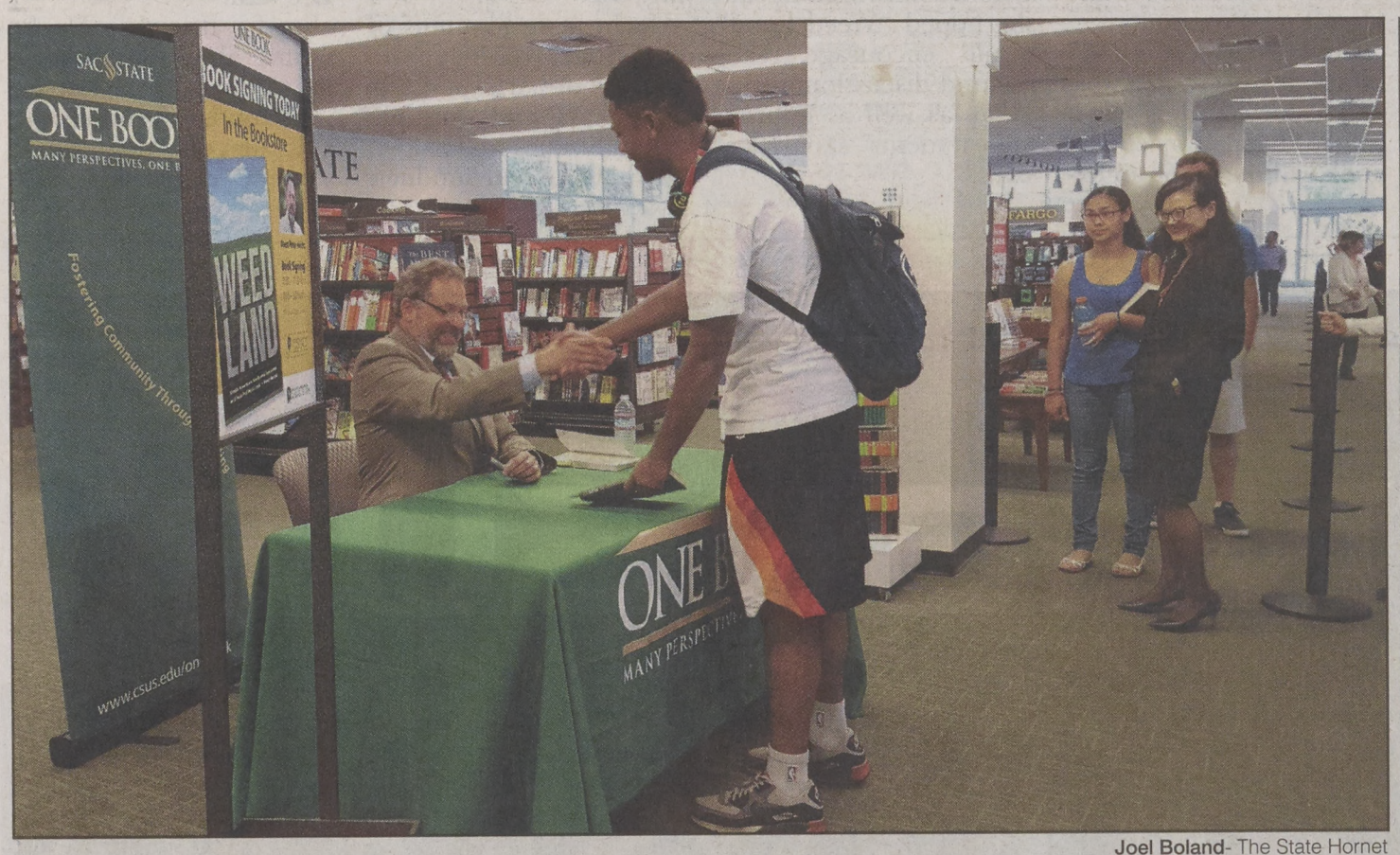
Bardo also said ASI will celebrate the Sac State team whether they win or not.

The Sac State Reflect Home will return to the Sacramento State campus in late October or early November.



Photo courtesy of Rustin Vogt

Sacramento State's final project in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition in Irvine, Calif. The house left Sac State on Sept. 25, 2015.



Joel Boland- The State Hornet

Peter Hecht shakes hands with Clark Thomas, a freshman majoring in communication studies, during a book signing in the Hornet Bookstore on Thursday, Oct. 8. Hecht is the winner of Sac State One Book Program with his book, "Weed Land."

Peter Hecht comes to campus to discuss One Book selection 'Weed Land'

Joel Boland
@shmoland

"Weed Land," a book by Peter Hecht and the Sacramento State One Book Program's selection of the year, came to the university for the Author Day event Thursday, Oct. 8.

The event featured a series of readings, discussions and a book signing by the author.

The book traces the history of the movement to legalize medicinal marijuana in California, as well as revealing "the changing political, legal, economic and social dynamics of pot," according to the book's website.

Hecht said that writing about marijuana was't always a goal.

"It wasn't really my ambition," Hecht said of his involvement in covering the marijuana movement. "I realized that it was really a fairly incredible phenomenon and worth following."

Hecht said he receives a lot of calls and questions about all things related to marijuana as the unofficial "weed guy."

Hecht has written several articles for the Sacramento Bee on pot-related issues.

"It is kind of a funny journey to imagine, being the accidental pot writer," Hecht said. "It shows the unlikely things that come up as a journalist, and sometimes recognizing that the best story is the one that's in front of you."

Hecht said he has covered a lot of different topics in his career working as a political writer for the Sacramento Bee.

"Now I do a little of everything," Hecht said. "Drought, immigration, all different sorts of California stories."

The One Book Pro-

WEED LAND, A4



Joel Boland - The State Hornet

Hellen Lee, an English professor at Sac State and staff coordinator of the One Book Program, introduces Peter Hecht before his reading in the University Union Ballroom.

Academic dishonesty is addressed

Joel Boland
@shmoland

Sacramento State is in the midst of making revisions to the student grade appeals process, and so professors are curious as to what the appropriate sanctions for academic dishonesty are.

Students are able to appeal their final grade if they believe it was assigned arbitrarily as "a grossly disproportionate sanction for cheating, including plagiarism," according to the latest draft of the proposed grade appeal policy.

However, there is not a university-wide definition of what constitutes a "grossly disproportionate" punishment for academic dishonesty, said Beth Lesen, associate vice president of Student Affairs.

There also does not appear to be a consensus among professors at Sac State as to how academic dishonesty should be sanctioned.

"It doesn't matter if it's a five-point quiz or a 500-point exam," Adam Rechs, a biology professor at Sac State said. "Cheating is cheating."

Plagiarism is much more of a gray area, Rechs said, when it comes to students who do their best to follow the rules, but fail to cite sources.

"If they were made to fail the class for that tiny little oversight, that would be grossly disproportionate," he said.

Sac State has access to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection service, for two years, said Lesen, although not all professors use it.

"There's no department policy on that," said David Toise, chair of the English department. "I know faculty who have used [Turnitin], and I know faculty who don't like using it."

The point or grade reduction for academic dishonesty is left up to the discretion of the professor.

Professors are then expected to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct, according to Sac State's academic honesty policies and procedure manual.

"I guess legally we're supposed to report it no matter what," said Steve Buss, chair of communication studies. "But that's not always what happens."

Lesen said statistics from the Office of Student Conduct might not be an accurate representation of academic dishonesty at Sac State.

"There are far more cases that individual faculty members choose to handle independently and never report," she said.

Sac State does not currently have a director of Student Conduct.

In the interim, Lesen is handling the responsibilities with some assistance from Tom Carroll, director of Student Organizations and Leadership, and Samuel Jones, director of Housing and Residential Life.

A search committee is currently reviewing applicants for a new director of the Office of Student Conduct.

Acts of academic dishonesty are rarely premeditated, but are rather a result of poor planning and last minute panic, Lesen said.

Many students who get caught for academic dishonesty come into the Office of Student Conduct ready to make amends.

"Very rarely do I get students who deny it. Which really just speaks to the character of our students," Lesen said. "They're good people who get into a tough spot and occasionally make a bad call."

Cardoza: assisting president with goals

CONTINUED, A1

after falling in love with student services.

While working on her master's thesis, Cardoza said she recalls being burdened by the statistics of transfer students and the Hispanic drop-out rates, and decided she wanted to do something different.

"The statistics were awful, and I wanted to help change that," Cardoza said. "I wanted to make a difference; and I also felt like the research was missing some success stories. I wanted to go back and help students become those success stories."

"I am glad that there is someone who has a connection to the students..."

- Akiela Moses
junior

After college, Cardoza started outreach to encourage students to attend college. While working as vice president of Student Affairs at the University of Texas-Pan American, she met and worked with Nelsen for four years.

"I was really taken by his passion for helping students and his intelligence," Cardoza said. "He wants to know all the data, and reads everything before making a decision; and I thought that I could help him better understand the area, to better help the student and help him make decisions to move the university forward."

Cardoza feels that collaboration is an important part of her job and she looks forward to the opportunity to work with others.

"What I've learned is that in life, and in your career, no one does anything alone, no one accomplishes anything on their own. It takes partners coming together and working towards common goals to make change," Cardoza said.

One of the biggest changes Cardoza and the president are working on is increasing graduation rates for Sac State.

"There is so much going on and so much we have improved, but we still have a nine percent four-year graduation rate, and we really need to analyze how we can improve that for the students," Cardoza said.

Akiela Moses, a third-year communication studies major, is happy the president's office has someone like Cardoza working in it.

"I am glad that there is someone who has a connection to the students and is keeping us in mind in the decision making process," Moses said.



Isaac Lee - The State Hornet

Peter Hecht signing books during the One Book Program event on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 in the University Union Ballroom.

Weed Land: book is for starting discussion

CONTINUED, A3

gram selection committee, which is made up of Sac State students and faculty from a variety of disciplines, selects a book that will be accessible to freshmen but interesting for everyone to read and discuss as a campus.

"The book is a catalyst for conversation," said Hellen Lee, an English professor at Sac State and faculty coordinator of the One Book Program.

Because "Weed Land" is about recent California history and is on a controversial subject, the book will make for an excellent catalyst, Lee said.

"It's a way to bring everybody on campus together around one common intellectual question," Lee said.

Jamie Rossitto, an English major and intern for the One Book Program, said she hoped "Weed Land" would encourage reading and discussion at Sac State, as well as improving students' analytical skills.

"How many times do you get to meet the author of a book you're reading for class."

- Jordan Holmes
English major

"How many times do you get to meet the author of a book that you're reading for class," said Jordan Holmes, English major and One Book intern. "That makes it so much more interesting."

Hecht is an alumnus of Sac State, receiving his Master of Arts in Latin American and International Studies in 2004.

"I have a real fondness for this place," Hecht said. "Being here is a lot of fun."

Lee said the selection committee sees the topic of the book they choose for the One Book Program as the most important factor in selecting a book, but does consder other things as well.

"The fact that he is from Sac State, that he lives in the Sacramento region, just made it even better," Lee said.

Even though Hecht writes about marijuana, he said he doesn't write while under the influence.

"I never did write stoned," Hecht said.





Hornets look forward after losing the fifth game in a row.

Story on B3



Francisco Magana- The State Hornet

Head coach Ruben Volta calls a timeout during their match against Southern Utah to motivate and encourgae his players on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015 at the Hornets Nest. Sacramento State went on to win the match in five sets, 3-2 (25-14, 25-18, 19-25, 25-17, 15-10). The Hornets improved to 14-2 overall.

Volta has best start in tenure

Elliot Jones
@elliotj31

Sacramento State volleyball went 1-3 on its four-game conference road trip after Saturday's 3-2 loss to the University of Idaho.

The Hornets (16-5, 3-2 in Big Sky Conference) remain in third place in the Big Sky South Division behind Northern Arizona University (15-4, 5-1) and Idaho State University (14-6, 6-0).

The team is ranked 69th in the nation, according to the NCAA women's volleyball rating percentage index rankings released on Oct. 5. Sac State, Northern Arizona and Idaho State are the only Big Sky teams ranked in the top 100.

The volleyball team is led by Ruben Volta, who is only the second head coach in the history of the program.

This is the best start to a season Volta has had in his tenure as coach. They have already won twice as many matches as they won all of last season.

Volta is in his eighth season as coach and has been with the team since 2000.

"This team's chemistry is really good, they really enjoy competing with each other and it's one of the deepest teams I've had," Volta said. "In the past I've had some teams when we've had some injuries and we didn't have the depth to continue to compete at the highest level, but this team does that very well."

Last year's team had only eight total wins at the conclusion of the season marking a dramatic turnaround to this season.

One of the players responsible for the turnaround is Lexie Skalbeck, who is originally from Portland, Oregon and is in her third year with the team. Skalbeck leads the team in digs with 365, which ranks third in the Big Sky.

"He does a really good job keeping us focused... Keeping us on task, on achieving our goals this season," Skalbeck said.

Another key contributor is outside hitter Sloan Lovett, who is averaging 3.41 kills per set, ranking seventh in the Big Sky. She's also averaging .36 service aces per set, which ranks seventh in the Big Sky as well.

"With everything he says there's something to learn," Lovett said, who has been with the team for four years. "I think he's a great coach."

Although Volta is originally from Cupertino, California, he stayed in Sacramento after graduating at Sac State and continued to stay involved in volleyball.

He returned to the school where he graduated from and would eventually take over the team from the only other volleyball head coach in school history Debby Colberg.

Colberg coached the volleyball team from its first year of existence in 1976. Her career spanned 32 years before passing the torch to Volta.

"I learned a lot form her, she's an incredible coach in so many ways and a great teacher," Volta said. "The teams were always so fundamentally sound. They played the game the right way and played the game hard all the time, I learned a lot from that."

Volta graduated from Sac State in 1993 as a kinesiology major. In his years at Sac State he was a setter for the men's club volleyball team. He was a first team All-American in 1995, the same year the team won Sac State's first ever national championship. He was inducted into the volleyball club's hall of fame in 2009.

"It was great," said Volta of being a part of a national championship team. "It was one of the best experiences you can have as a player."

The Hornets will play the next four matches at home starting with the University of Northern Colorado (7-12, 3-3) on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 17 they will face Portland State University (5-13, 1-5) at 7 p.m.

The following week they face Montana State University (3-11, 1-5) on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. They conclude their home stand on Saturday, Oct. 25 against the University of Montana (4-14, 0-6) at 1 p.m.



Francisco Magana - The State Hornet

Sacramento State causes Southern Utah to call a timeout during the first set on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015 at the Hornets Nest. Head coach Ruben Volta addresses his team's play.

Men's golf focuses on academics

Matthew Green
@MatthewGreen_15

The Sacramento State men's golf team is having a strong season so far, including breaking the course record with a score of 15 under par in the Nick Watney Invitational in Fresno, California, but their focus is being successful in their academics as well as on the course.

Being a student first and an athlete second is something the members of the team value. Keeping up with a 12-unit workload and competing at the best of their ability is what the members of the team do on a weekly basis.

The team has a heavy travel schedule and plays every tournament on the road, except for the Sacramento State Invitational on March 7-8, 2016, which will be held at the Valley High Country Club in Sacramento.

Taylor Knoll and Owen Taylor, who are seniors on the team, find that it is most effective to get the work done before their tournaments and to always stay ahead of their assignments.

"I try to read the books on the plane," Knoll said. "I try to get my studying done on the Saturday or Sunday before the actual tournament so it's stress free once [the tournament] gets going."

Taylor also finds time to do his school work in between practice and tournaments when he is on the road.

"If the professors let us turn in something late, then we will work on the plane or in the car or in our hotel room," Taylor said. "With us, we are playing 36 holes on Monday and we are out on the course from about 7 a.m. and don't get back 'till about 10 p.m."

Working on the road to maintain a good academic standing is something that all athletes at the collegiate level face, but from the golf team's perspective, it is extremely important to manage time because they miss many days of school that can make it stressful just to keep up with assignments.

Dealing with the stress that comes with being a student is something that Knoll tries to put out of his head while he is on the course because he knows that it could affect his performance as an athlete.

"Other students don't realize the pressure that we have to perform well [athletically], as well as to do well in the classroom," Knoll said. "It's definitely tough being a student-athlete…there's no doubt that when I'm at tournaments, I'm still thinking about school and what I have to do when I come back. We just missed three Mondays [and] Tuesdays in a row and I try not to think about that at tournaments, but it can get a little stressful."

Sac State Coach Kamden Brakel, who has Division I golfing experience at the University of Hawaii, knows what it's like being

GOLF, B2

Women's soccer find success at Hornet Field

Home field advantage has the Hornets above .500 on season

Karah Butac
@karahbutac

Sacramento State's Hornet Field is one-of-kind to the women's soccer team.

Hornet Field is 75-yards wide and is made up of baby Bermuda grass. The maximum length allowed is 80 yards and the minimum is 65-yards wide.

Every soccer field is different, they can vary from size, different types of grass, as well as grass length.

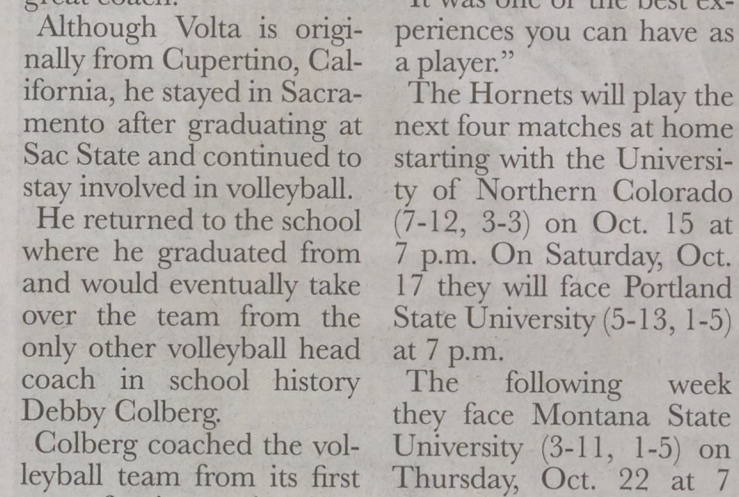
Sac State freshman defender Hayden Gabbert said Hornet Field is one of the nicest fields she has ever played on.

"I am from Washington and over there the grass is just a lot thicker," Gabbert said. "So it can be hard coming from playing on this Bermuda grass that moves really fast to going on the road and playing on a slower field."

Sac State head coach Randy Dedini thinks the Hornets play better at home because they have a better understanding of where the ball is going to go.

"We feel more confident on our field," Dedini said. "It's a comfortable surrounding, it's where we train every day, we know just how the ball is going to bounce and roll on our

SOCCER, B3



Jion Azarabadi - The State Hornet

Sacramento State's Alyssa Anderson tries to maneuver around Northern Arizona defenders on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015.



Francisco Medina - The State Hornet

Brad Bumgarner dribbles past CSU Northridge defender Tanner Snedigar. Bumgarner scored Sacramento State's only goal on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 at Hornet Field.

Bumgarner, Geyer lead by example

Christopher Bullock
@CWayneBull

As the Sacramento State men's soccer team reaches the halfway point of the season, two players in particular have played an essential part in the team's success: Brad Bumgarner and Paul Geyer.

Bumgarner, a redshirt freshman forward, and Geyer, a sophomore defender, have had two different paths; but together both of them look to lead the Hornets to success.

"Both of these guys are a big part of what we're looking to do in the future," said Hornets' head coach Michael Linenberger, who recruited them both.

Linenberger, who is in his 27th year as coach, thinks of both players very highly and based on their play this season, it's not hard to see why.

Bumgarner is the leading scorer on the team with four goals in the 2015 season, which is also tied for sixth in the Big West Conference.

Geyer, who has scored only one goal this season, has served as the defensive anchor for the young Hornets, who were 4-7-1 (1-3-0 in Big West) going into last Wednesday's game against UC Santa Barbara.

Bumgarner came to Sacramento State as a highly-recruited athlete from Mountain View High School in Mountain View, CA. As a senior, he scored 24 goals and had 16 assists, averaging more than three points a game.

Going into his freshman year in 2014, Bumgarner was expected to make a big impact for the Hornets. Unfortunately, he broke his foot in the preseason, forcing him to sit out the season as a medical redshirt.

This season, however, Bumgarner has started to show why he was looked at coming out of high school. Linenberger has enjoyed seeing his progress on the field.

"He's a threat who likes to get behind opposing defenses," Linenberger said. "He's gotten more dangerous as the season progresses."

This season, he has had two game-winning goals. The first one, which led to a 1-0 win over the University of the Pacific on Sept. 18, was his second of the season. His third goal of the season was the difference maker in a 2-0 win over Saint Mary's College on Sept. 27.

"Whenever I get in the game, I just look to make an impact," Bumgarner said.

Geyer is still fairly new to the U.S. but has a decorated background in soccer. Before moving to Sacramento at the age of 16, Geyer spent his entire life in Liverpool, England.

While in England, he played in the Liverpool FC Academy. After moving to Sacramento, he suited up for the Sacramento United Reds of the Northern California Premier Soccer League. While with the Reds, he helped them win the 2012 Sporting Invitational in Santa Clara and scored in every game of the 2013 Surf Cup in San Diego.

His competitiveness has impressed Linenberger, who had nothing but praise for Geyer.

"He's a winner, whether it comes to practices or close games," Linenberger said. "He just doesn't like to lose."

Geyer expanded on his coach's comments after their Oct. 9 practice.

"It was groomed into me playing in England," Geyer said. "I remember anything from Monopoly to chess, if I lost I would break down into tears."

As a freshman in 2014, he played 1,190 minutes, including every minute in nine of the games he played. As a center midfielder, he helped Sac State record three shutouts and a 1.71 goals against average in conference play. For his efforts, Geyer was named to the Big West All-Freshman team.

This season, he has started all 12 games the team has played, nearly playing every minute of each game as well.

"He's the glue of our team," Linenberger said. "He gives us his all, whether he plays five minutes or 90 minutes."

Though Bumgarner and Geyer are great individual players in their own right, they are also team-oriented. Bumgarner is more soft-spoken, while Geyer has been known to rip into his teammates at times.

"Sometimes it's a negative thing," Geyer said. "At the end of the day, I'm just an overly competitive person and I want the best out of everyone... myself included."



Francisco Medina - The State Hornet

Midfielder Paul Geyer dribbles past California State University, Northridge midfielder Carlos Gonzalez. CSU Northridge won the match, 2-1, on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 at Hornet Field.

Upcoming men's golf matches

Oct. 29-30	Pacific Invitational
Nov. 6-8	Collegiate Classic
Feb. 1-3	LMU-Higgins Memorial Invitational @ Reflection Bay GC
Mar. 7-8	**Sacramento State Invitational**
Mar. 11-12	Border Olympics
April 21-22	Barona Collegiate Cup

*home tournaments are in bold

Golf: GPA essential to team

CONTINUED, B1

on the road for a majority of the time and sympathizes with his team.

"It's tough [being on the road]," Brakel said. "You know, I've been there before and it definitely is stressful, but it's also a good skill to learn and it's a good quality to have when you go into the workforce. So they are definitely developing [those skills] and that's what we are looking for. Some guys learn it quicker than others, but in the end, time management is the most important skill that they can have especially doing college golf."

Brakel is focused on getting his team to an overall GPA of 3.0 this season.

Last season the team finished with an overall GPA below that mark due to just one student who had a 1.5 and is no longer on the team.

The rest of the team was around the 3.0 mark, but since there are only eight players on the team, when one person fails, their whole average is affected.

The members of the golf team have to carry each other academically as a team and know that none of them can slack off because they are representing Sac State.

"As student-athletes we are representing the university as a whole," Taylor said. "We are a part of the school, we are a brand or a logo that is connected to the university."

Understanding the importance of academics is something that Brakel has emphasized this season with his players and he knows that if they work hard they will meet their goal of reaching a 3.0 GPA.

"This is a great group of guys," Brakel said. "They understand and are working hard, you know, academics are why we are here and it's part of the process of understanding time management and how to handle traveling with school and with classes."



Christopher Sandison - The MSU Exponent

Joshua Armstrong and a fellow Sacramento State teammate tackle Montana State's quarterback Dakota Prukop on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 at Bobcat Stadium. The Hornet's lost, 35-13.

Football on five-game losing streak

Jeremiah Martinez
@jmartinez_SHS

In what has looked to be a transitional year for Sacramento State football, the program's 2015 struggles continued on Saturday, after a 35-13 loss to Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

The loss brings the Hornets to a five-game losing streak, which drops their record to 1-4 overall and 0-3 in Big Sky Conference play. Also, it was the 10th straight time Sac State has lost to Montana State.

"We just need to win," said senior linebacker Darnell Sankey. "That's what it comes down to. We could talk about it all we want, but until we start going out there and putting up Ws instead of Ls, that's how we'll get our respect."

Saturday's game featured the Hornets being plagued with injuries and turning the ball over three times.

Sac State coach Jody Sears said injuries to quarterback Kolney Cassel and running back Jordan Robinson should not be an excuse for the result.

"We will never make excuses," Sears said. "We got good kids, we got good leadership. [The] kids kept fighting their hearts out."

Cassel made a second straight start in place of the injured Daniel Kniffin, but was forced to leave with an apparent shoulder injury of his own in the second half.

The redshirt sophomore went 16-of-30 for 193 yards and a touchdown before leaving the game.

"Our quarterback got hurt, but we got to score," Sears said. "He's out there playing with a third-degree separation of his shoulder and he's out there throwing the ball, putting ourselves into position to make plays."

Nate Ketteringham performed well for the Hornets, completing 5-of-9 attempts for 40 yards in relief of Cassel.

The true freshman is the fourth Hornet quarterback to play in a game this season.

Robinson also left the game early for Hornets after taking a lower-body shot by Bobcats' linebacker Grant Collins.

Sears said the junior should be fine for Saturday's game against Southern Utah University.

Robinson played a dominant first half for the Hornets, rushing for 108 yards on 17 carries, which marked the fourth consecutive game he has rushed for 100 yards or more. He was also the fourth Hornet to accomplish the feat since Bryan Hillard in 2008.

After allowing two first quarter scores to the Bobcats, the Hornets scored 10 unanswered points with a 23-yard pass from Cassel to receiver Nnamdi Agude later in the quarter and a 30-yard field goal by Brad Cornish in the second quarter to cut Montana State's lead to 14-10.

Montana State extended its lead to 21-10 when Bobcats' quarterback Dakota Prukop rushed for a three-yard score before halftime.

The Hornets came within one score again with a Cornish 22-yard field goal that ended a 16-play, 80-yard drive in the third quarter. The drive took less than seven minutes off the clock, and kept the Bobcats offense off the field.

On the ensuing drive, Montana State responded with a Gunner Brekke eight-yard run to extend the lead to 28-13.

Sac State couldn't cut the lead within one score for the rest of the game after Prukop rushed for a one-yard score to extend the Bobcats lead to 35-13 in the fourth quarter.

"We got to keep our head up, keep working hard and keep grinding," Sears said. "These kids work extremely hard, there's no complaining, there's no whining, there's no excuses. They're hurt, but they'll bounce back."

Cassel said the loss shouldn't break the team's morale with five games left in the season.

"No matter what happens, we all have each other's backs," Cassel said. "I don't think one game determines a season."

Cassel transferred to Sac State during the spring 2015 semester from Southern Methodist University.

The redshirt sophomore said he likes the group of guys he's surrounded by in the Hornet locker room compared to SMU.

"I think this team has more talent than my old school," Cassel said. "Especially, Shane [Harrison], Nnamdi, Isiah [Hennie], Lars [Hanson], [Anthony] Viveiros and Jordan Robinson, we didn't have any of those type of dudes [at SMU]."

If Cassel is unable to start for a third straight game, the Hornets could possibly look to Kniffin or Ketteringham to lead Sac State's offense against Southern Utah on the road on Saturday.

The Hornets are looking for their first conference win of the season, as the Thunderbirds will enter the matchup at 3-2 overall and 3-0 in conference play. Southern Utah is one of the two teams in the Big Sky that haven't lost a conference game this season, the other being Eastern Washington University (3-0 in Big Sky).

Saturday's game is slated for a 5:05 p.m. kickoff at Eccles Coliseum in Cedar City, Utah.

Soccer: The women's team faces challenges on the road

CONTINUED, B1

own field."

Halfway through this season, Sac State is 3-2 when playing at Hornet Field and are 1-7 on the road.

Junior Alexa Heinzer thinks it's easier to play at home because she knows where to expect the ball to go.

"I think home field advantage helps by practicing everyday on the same field," Heinzer said. "Our field is pretty much all flat, but when we go to [Southern] Utah [University] and Idaho [State University] the field is bumpy cause they don't have the same grass as us, so when we get there, our touches are a little off and their's happen to be perfect because they understand the bounce."

Heinzer plays defender and midfielder, she joined the Hornets during the spring of 2013 as a redshirt freshman. During the fall of 2013, she played in 16 games and had 14 starts. In fall 2014, she played in 17 games with 16 starts and had 21 shots, including six shots on goal and three points. This season she has seven shots, six shots on goal, one assist and three points.

Apart from the different field size and types of grass, another obstacle the Hornets face on the road is the change in weather.

"We have to just get used to the climate, the elevation is higher so we're kind of out of breath easier," Heinzer said.

The Hornets have a good fan base coming to their games, Gabbert said it makes the team more excited and it's good to have fans.

"We also have been having a couple a fans come with us on the road," Heinzer said. "It gives us confidence and it helps and we are really happy to have them."

Sac State has loyal fans throughout the season, according to Dedini.

"We have been getting pretty good fan support and having a loud crowd really helps us," Dedini said.

The Hornets also have to deal with fans from other schools they play.

"Sometimes you can get the student cheering section screaming at you and calling your name and saying all these awful things," Heinzer said. "You kind of need to learn to just not listen to it and just focus on your game."

Sac State lost its first three conference road games, but won on Sunday, Oct. 11 3-2 against Idaho State.

"You go out there and you know they have been practicing and getting all this time on their field, but at the same time we go out there and we are like we want to beat them on their own field because it's a great feeling to beat the home team," Heinzer said.

Sac State has four games left this season and three of them will take place at Hornet Field.

"I think it is just another advantage for us," Gabbert said. "Being at home, being in your own house, and having our fans, and our field because we know how to play on it, I am confident we can beat a lot of teams just playing on the field we have."

Sac State will play at home on Friday, Oct. 16 at 3:30 p.m. against the University of Northern Colorado.



Jion Azarabadi - The State Hornet

Kassidy Kellogg pushes forward to gain control of the ball against Southern Utah on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015 at Hornet Field.The Hornets went on to win the game, 4-1.

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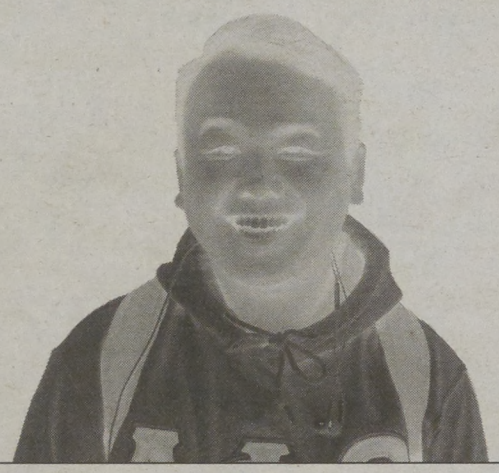
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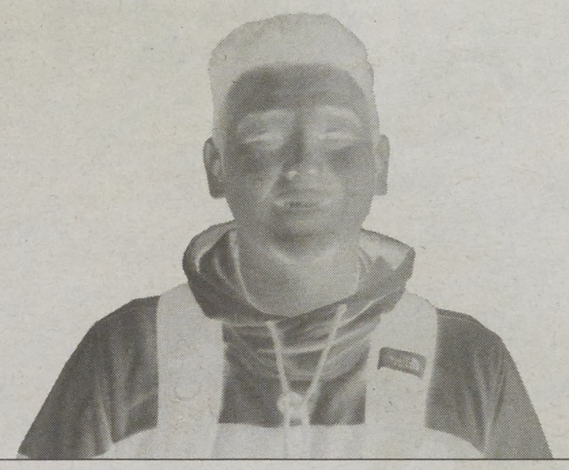
What is your favorite thing about fall?





Nathan To
junior business major

"The alley in front of Mariposa Hall, when the leaves start falling it looks like a wallpaper."



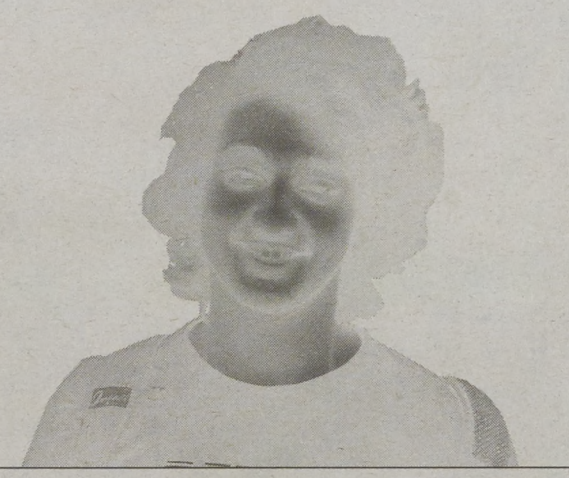
"The leaves are falling. It's nice to look at."

Daniel Diaz
junior business major



"Probably the way that the leaves change, the way they turn orange. Our arboretum has a bunch of trees I like to walk through when the leaves turn."

Stacie Burton
senior environmental studies major



"The weather, it's not sunny anymore."

Abdul Alabra
freshman



"The rain. We need it more now than ever but it's always been my favorite."

Tyler McColley
sophomore business major

Works of art inspire discussion

Alyson Poveda
@15_alyson

Advancement to Candidacy, the current exhibit going on in the Robert Else Gallery, had its reception on Oct. 8.

The artist, Chelsea Thompto, had the opportunity to hear from viewers about her latest work. The exhibit's intention was to start a conversation and answer questions about the issues that surround the transgender community.

Thompto said her powerful experience in transitioning from a man to a woman over the past six years has inspired her to talk about the discrimination and hate that transgender people go through, in her art pieces.

"As I made works, I deepened my understanding about what it means to be a transgender and what the experience is about," said Thompto. "I am able to kinda use these sculpture materials as an allegory to start a talk about transgender issues."

The exhibition is composed of 18 different sculptures of burnt wood along with an implemented code written in each of the pieces.

In order to express the transformation that transgender individuals go through, Thompto burned wood by using a process in which each of the pieces get to keep their shape.

The binary writing system Thompto came up with was carefully and meticulously labeled on the six torsos of burnt wood and the 12 individual smaller pieces with white acrylic paint.

The code writing on the main wall, written in charcoal, can also be appreciated. Thompto explained that both the white code writing on each of the pieces and the black code writing on the wall are a reflection mirage.

Thompto explained that the mirage provided a conversation about the taboo of gender transition.

"The conversation between the work and the space, is kind of an analogue to the conversation between society and the transgendered people, the social issues and problems that arise from that," said Thompto.

At her artist statement, Thompto provided the formula to decode the binary writing system so viewers of the gallery can decode each of the pieces' writing and discover the hidden message. This was a way to start the conversation between the viewers and the art itself.

Decoding the meaning of each piece was something that many of the attendees enjoyed.

"It is very interesting, I like that we actually look, decoded and spent some time looking and seeing what [the code] means. That is definitely something different," said Alexa Sandoval, second-year undeclared Sac State student.

Roberta Rousos, sculptor and Sac State alumna, expressed her admiration for the exhibition.

"This is my first time coming in and seeing the whole exhibit and it is amazing," said Rousos. "Her art statement itself is very specific and poetically styled. There is a certain number of syllables and a certain number of words per sentence, it is very precise."

Regarding the use of a binary code, Thompto explained that she wanted to create something like the writing that is not easy to translate and transport, in other words, she wanted the conversation between the viewers and the are pieces to be a difficult one.

"I did not want it to be easy for me to write or easy to read, and that has to be with the fact that the conversation of gender and trans is not an easy one and is not a very comfortable one in society right now," said Thompto.

Thompto feels there is a tendency by people in general to avoid taking a stand on issues about immigration, race or gender identity that do not affect them directly, and by making them decode the writing in each of the pieces is a way to challenge the viewers to explore this taboo topic by engaging in it.

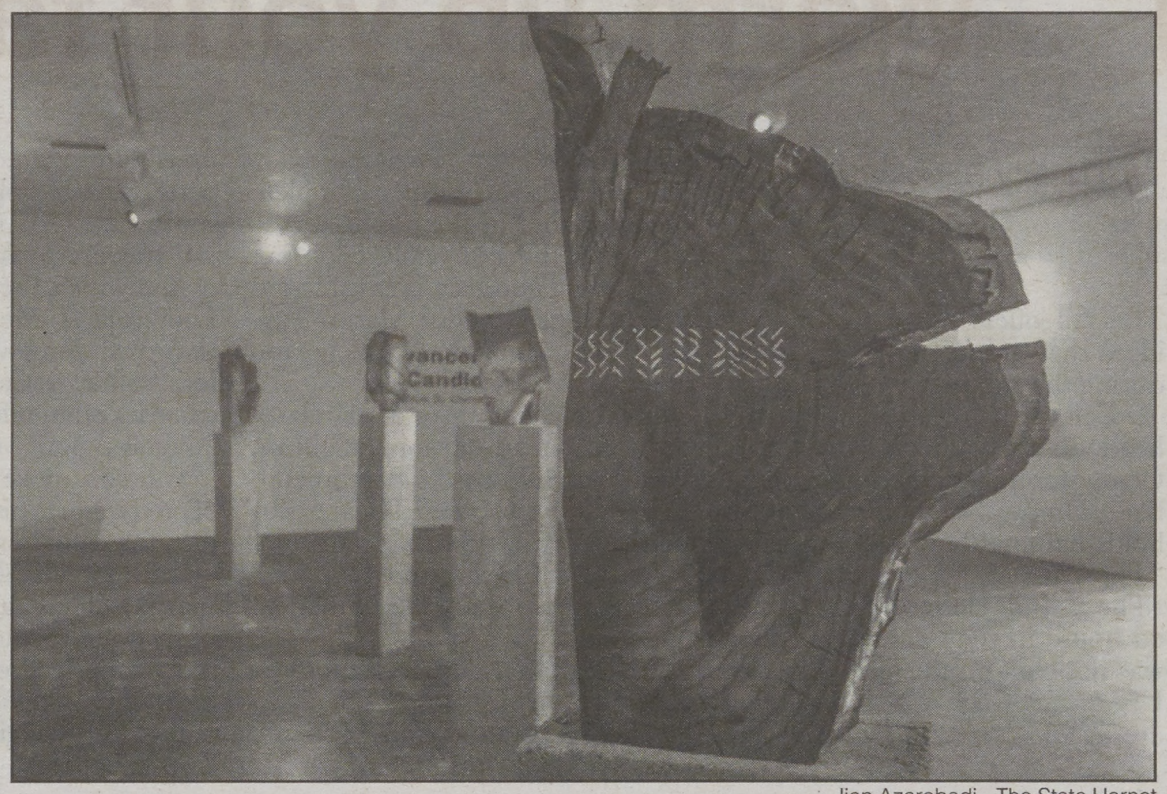
Trans Effigy 2015 is one of Thompto's sculptures that deeply manifests the misunderstanding that society has about transgender people.

The sculpture is a memorial to honor all the transgender people that were murdered in the U.S.

Thompto mentioned that her art work would not have been completed without a "holistic" address of the problem; violence has increased rather than decreased over the years, especially against transgender women.

Overall, Thompto wants viewers to question their own assumptions about gender and how their actions and words have a big impact on transgender people.

The art exhibit will continue until Oct. 16.



Jion Azarabadi - The State Hornet

Chelsea Thompto's artwork uses a binary system of language for a non-binary conversation, on display at the Robert Else Gallery on Oct. 12, 2015. Her exhibit is called "Advancement to Candidacy."

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Warm up your fall with t

Nancy Rebolledo
@thenancyfancy

The fall offers a variety of date ideas that are not always possible during the summer.

Get in the Halloween spirit and head up to Scandia Family Fun Center for a scary night to remember. During October, Scandia holds haunted house nights called "The Wuss Maker."

The self-proclaimed best haunted house in the Sacramento area was not built for the faint of heart. Upon entering the house, you are in for a scream. However, the house does offer "Wuss Exits" if you feel like you cannot complete the lively tour of the house.

"I think that's a really cool first date, a real good ice breaker," said senior English major Mason Taylor. "You definitely won't be too nervous after that."

Grab a suit and tie or a very classy dress and head out for a night on the town. Stop by the Sacramento Community Center Theater for musicals "Elf," playing from early to mid-November, and "Pippin," playing from late December to early January.

The theater also offers a moment to enjoy the classics. "The Nutcracker" is an annual ballet offered from mid to late December and is perfect for getting into the holiday spirit.

If you are looking for a variety of red wines, the Sacramento and Lodi valleys offer their very own award-winning wines. Stay for a few hours or the weekend; these wineries often offer bed and breakfast stays.

"You can make a whole day out of it [wine tasting]," said junior journalism major Alisha Kirby.

Head for the hills; Apple Hill that is. At just a 45-minute drive from Sacramento, Apple Hill offers the perfect scenery for couples looking to add a twist to their date nights. Apple Hill holds a variety of events, inclu
and crafts vend

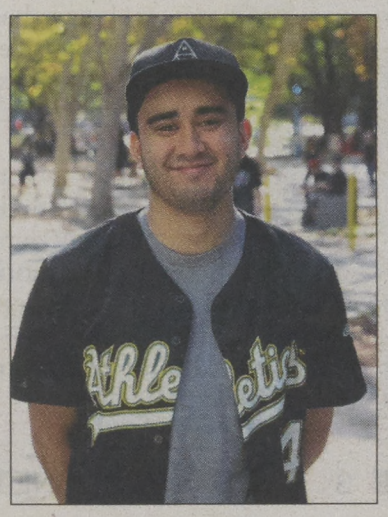
"You get all
the surrounding
weather [at Ap
nior Daniel Ro

There are ove
it, each with its
rience to offer.

Shop for apple
enjoy the view
one trip. Or be
by, who propose
at Apple Hill.

Fall sports are
If neither one
ing, head out t
hockey game. T
the area this ye

Favorite Fall Date Idea?



"I would go on a nice brisk walk or a borderline hike with a thermal of hot coco or coffee to start the day off and also pack some picnic project."

Keelan Sunlao-Valdez
junior photography major



"I think a picnic under the trees with sandwiches, cheese and nice wine."

Haley Hallaran
sophomore social work major



this season's dating tips

Graphic by Pierce Grohosky

s, including fun runs, art
s vendors, and wineries.
et all the fall colors, all
oundings and all the nice
[at Apple Hill]," said ju-
niel Romandia.
re over 50 ranches to vis-
with its own unique expe-
offer.
r apples or apple pies, and
e view of the sunset, all in
Or be as romantic as Kir-
proposed to her girlfriend
Hill.
rts are also a fall favorite.
r one of you minds driv-
d out to a Stockton Heat
game. The team is new to
this year, but Stockton is not new to the minor league hockey arena. Their tickets start at $20.

If both of you are sports fans and want to show off your school spirit, join Herky the Hornet at Hornet Stadium.

Couples can go to any of the two remaining football games, although the most anticipated one is against Sac State's longtime rival, UC Davis.

The game on Saturday, Nov. 21 almost always attracts a big crowd and is a chance for all Hornets to show the Aggies who really rules the valley.

Try out tailgating with your significant other and your friends before the big game. Don't forget to cheer for the Hornets as they take on the Aggies in the Causeway Classic.

Dates can be as extravagant as one makes them but the simple ones can be just as memorable and romantic as any other.

Treat yourselves to a dinner at any of the restaurants in Downtown or Midtown, Sacramento.

A quick search on Google or Yelp turns up dozens of restaurants that are not only moderately priced but that are close to the Sac State area.

Since many students are on tight schedules and often can't leave campus for long periods of time, try out the Epicure restaurant on campus. It offers a variety of dishes and relaxed ambiance.

Or, be like senior Jaxon Ramsel and stay indoors taking turns watching movies with his partner.

"It's a lot nicer hearing the rain outside and being inside watching movies, [during the fall] we exchange between chick flicks and action movies," Ramsel said.

Though fall is busy with midterms and papers and exams, it can also be the perfect season to relax and enjoy the company of the person you are with.

"Most importantly, have fun," Taylor said. "If I'm thinking of dates, I think, 'would I have fun doing this?' If so, then go for it."

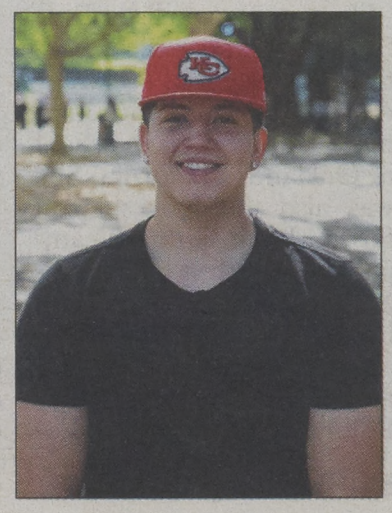
"I would go on a nature hike around a lake and bring her a pumpkin spice latte."

Scott Gale
senior government major



"Past El Dorado Hills there is a place called Apple Hill. They have good apple cider and hot apple donuts."

Kelsie Burnell
junior social sciences major



"I would go to a pumpkin patch and a corn maze. I'd follow that up with getting caramel apples."

Alex Gonzalez
junior business major

Author, panel discuss pot laws

Marissa Montoya
@mamalou823

One Book Author Peter Hecht hosted a panel discussion regarding the rapidly evolving and expanding world of cannabis, namely medical marijuana. The panel consisted of power players who have made major impacts in the laws and the way greater society views medical marijuana. The panelists were also characters in Hecht's book, "Weed Land."

A main point of all the panelists was to focus more on federal regulations.

One of the most compelling stories of the event came from Dale Schafer, an attorney who started growing cannabis plants for his wife, Dr. Mollie Fry, when she was diagnosed with cancer. Schafer and Fry were sentenced to prison for five years for distributing cannabis to patients who received medical marijuana recommendations from Fry.

Schafer was recently released after serving 52 months in prison. His compassion for members of the medical marijuana community and his hunger for continued progress were blatant in his rhetoric.

"This system has been nefariously growing and to unwind it is not going to be easy because no one wants to give up their money, their power. Nobody has enough hair on their rear-ends in Washington right now to say 'stop!' A few people are around the edges," said Schafer. "We need to have a changed status of cannabis. It shouldn't even be called marijuana anymore because that was a pejorative of Mexican Americans. Cannabis should not be a Schedule I drug. As students, learn. This is a learning institution, put on your thinking cap and question. Get angry and turn that anger into action."

William "Bill" Portanova, one of the leading defense lawyers in the Sacramento region, was another panelist. Portanova is also a former assistant U.S. attorney who specialized in drug enforcement and organized crime task forces. As a former prosecutor turned defense lawyer, Portanova advocated for focusing on changing federal laws.

"This crowd probably does understand this, but most people do not. There are two entirely different systems of criminal law. One is the stuff you are all familiar with, local laws," said Portanova. "But there is an entirely separate system of criminal justice that regulates the entire country with its own judges, own prosecutors and its own laws and they couldn't care less what the state laws are. If you think a joint won't get you prosecuted, let me tell you I am representing young people for smoking a joint at Yosemite National Park. It's still happening, whether it should be is up to you. I hope you change the law, and I hope you focus on federal law. You either get Congress to change the classification, or nothing changes."

The next panelist, Dale Sky Jones, who is the executive chancellor of Oaksterdam University, the infamous cannabis trade school in Oakland, California. She was also the spokesperson for the Proposition 19 campaign to legalize recreational marijuana use for adults in 2010. Jones is chairwoman of the board for the Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform and is a prime proponent of the legalization movement in California.

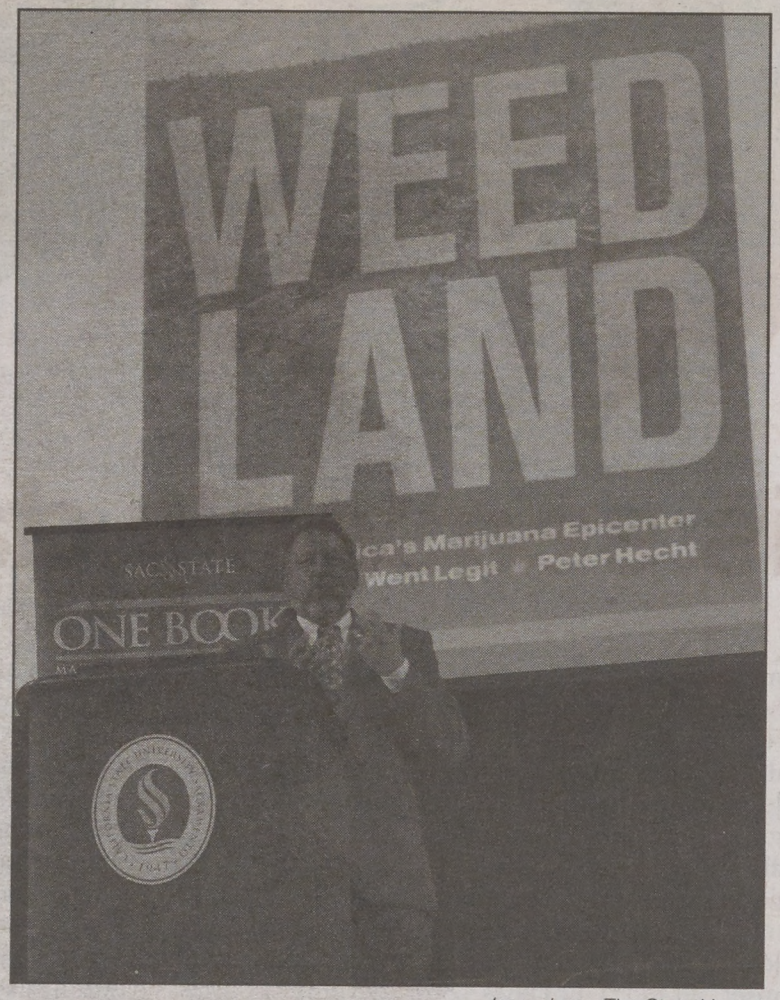
One of the points Jones made was that while she would not be "mom of the year" if her child got into her medications, she would rather the child accidentally eat a brownie than get into a bottle of aspirin. Like the other panelists, Jones is also a proponent of urging change on the federal level.

"This is the same path we took to disassemble alcohol prohibition. A full year before Congress acted, California said we are no longer going to uphold your failed policy.

"A full 10 years before Congress acted, New York did. It was state by state saying we will no longer uphold your failed federal policy that eventually undid the federal alcohol prohibition. And this happened while it was still living memory," said Jones. "Folks remember the time before prohibition, how bad it got during prohibition, 'and wow, we better fix this folks.' We don't remember why cannabis became illegal. We just assume it must have been for a really good reason. There is new evidence."

Jones also educated the audience about something called 'jury immunity', also known as 'jury nullification. This means that jury members have the right to vote their conscience without negative repercussions.

"When you get called to jury duty, you are not just judging the individual and whether or not they broke the law. You are also actually judging the law. This is how we ended the last civil rights injustices. When you were thrown in jail for loving someone of another color, we said 'this is ridiculous and I will no longer convict on this ridiculous law,' Jones said. "We can do the same thing with drug laws. Because as citizens, if you can't get direct action through your Congress, through your President, through your legislature, through your state, you can act as a citizen when you show up to vote and when you show up for jury duty. You have that right and that responsibility. I ask you to share this information with three of your friends and your mama."



Isaac Lee - The State Hornet

Author Peter Hecht speaks about his book on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 in the University Union. He is this year's One Book author.

Former Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness was also on the panel. He made it clear that he does not advocate the use of marijuana but that he does understand the need for change. His biggest focus was on finding a way to measure the effects of marijuana so that a safe level can be established for safely driving under the influence. McGinness also agreed with the other panelists that focus needs to be on change on the federal level.

Schafer voiced a difference of opinion with McGinness' comparison of the effects of cannabis to the effects of alcohol.

Regardless which side of the cannabis fence one leans, the topic of federal legalization is an important issue that deserves discussion because there are people who greatly benefit from its use. The consensus of the panel discussion was the suggestion that citizens use the power of their votes to change federal policy in regards to cannabis.

Students react to music videos

Denise Barajas
@denisevvb

It has been addressed before: Sex and drugs are pretty common themes in today's music, but should these themes always be taken at face value?

Last week, The State Hornet sat down with a few Sacramento State students to ask for their opinions of Rihanna's music video, "B**** Better have my Money."

The responses were so compelling, we decided to go out once more to have students interpret more of today's mainstream hits.

This week's music video that was dissected was Tove Lo's "Habits (Stay High)."

The music video is a chronicle of what a night out for Lo consists of after having someone significant in her life leave her. Despite having heard the song multiple times on the radio, majority of students agreed the video gave them a new perspective on Lo's song.

"I didn't realize how much intensity there was behind the song until I saw the video because her feelings are expressed so much more through the imagery," said third-year nursing major Leicia Williams. "Through it becomes clear how much she needs to constantly feel numb to forget about someone or something."

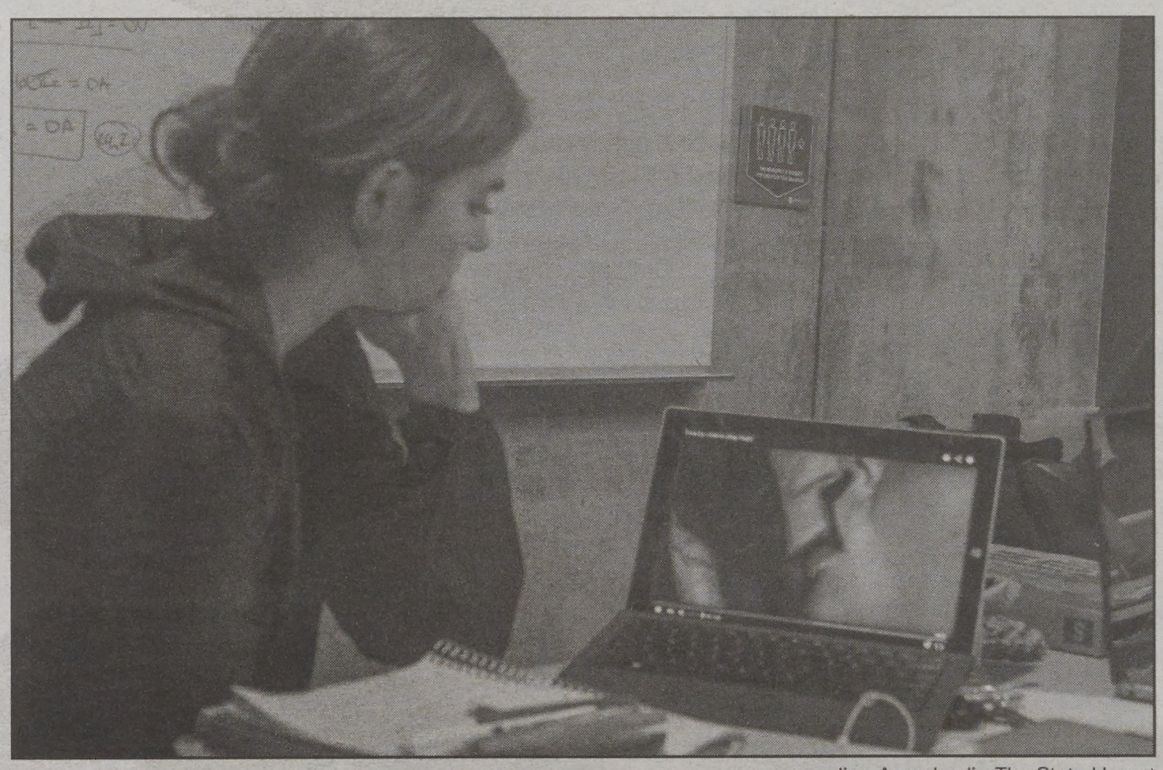
Lupe Vega, a senior kinesiology major, believes Lo's song just encourages people to think that using drugs as a coping mechanism is permissible.

"I think a lot of people like this song because they can relate to it... but I think that's because people romanticize the fact that when you're missing someone or you're going through pain it's OK to drink it off," Vega said. "And I feel like this song really romanticizes that and that shouldn't be the case because addiction is a very serious problem."

Despite the song's chorus that repeats time and time again, "you're gone, and I gotta stay high all the time to keep you off my mind," Williams argues that the song's lyrics should not be taken so literally and that Lo is not simply referring to her smoking.

Instead she believes this conveys Lo's need to "get high" on anything that is considered to be extreme to fill a new void in her life.

"I think her desperate need to get high, not just on drugs but pretty much anything, is just her trying to reach new extremes, anything to forget the pain she's going through really," said Williams. "It's depressing, she's clearly got some emotional issues."



Jion Azarabadi - The State Hornet

Leicia Williams takes time out of her studies for her nursing classes to watch Tove Lo's "Habit (Stay High)" and shares how she feels about the explicit music video in the Academic Information Resource Center on Oct. 7, 2015.

Williams also honed in on aspects of the video that caught her eye.

"Probably when she was kissing both men and women just because it's not something you see in your average music video," Williams said.

"Just seeing everybody feeling up on her even though it doesn't seem like she's enjoying it... I think it just goes to show how desperate she is to have someone in her life and just like her feeling of desperate need to, I guess, get high on anything whether it's being extreme or not. I think that's why she's reaching extremes, to forget."

Toward the middle of the song Lo sings, "staying in my play pretend where the fun ain't got no end. Can't go home alone again, need someone to numb the pain," while music viewers watch as she breaks down in a bathroom stall.

Despite the clear emotional turmoil she is undergoing however, Lo continues to engage in drugs and sexual activity with multiple partners.

When asked what she interpreted from these lyrics in combination with the images in the video, Williams said, "I think it shows her fear of reality. She's kind of trying to play dumb with different extremities. And she's trying desperately to keep herself from coming back to reality by constantly being stimulated so that she never reaches that baseline."

Liberty Estigoy, a senior kinesiology major, agreed and said, "I just see a depressed girl who doesn't know how to cope with life challenges or certain circumstances.

"The whole thing just made me sad from the beginning," she said. "I really just see someone who is sad and wants out but doesn't know how."

Sometimes dissecting a song's lyrics in comparison to its music video is necessary to getting the whole story.

Despite explicitly singing and demonstrating the use of drugs, there may be more to Tove Lo's song than meets the ear.

However, it is on the public to be critical consumers of what they are listening to in order to understand art like Lo's.

To key-in on your interpretation of Lo's video, or Rihanna's video from last week's paper, go to statehornet.com and drop us a line.





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